

# Seat Pleasant News

October 2013

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### CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT

#### MAYOR

Eugene W. Grant

#### COUNCIL PRESIDENT & WARD III COUNCILMEMBER

Reveral L. Yeargin

#### WARD I COUNCILMEMBER

Elenora Simms

#### WARD II COUNCILMEMBER

Aretha A. Stephenson

#### WARD IV COUNCILMEMBER

Gerald R. Raynor

#### WARD V COUNCILMEMBER

Eugene F. Kennedy

#### AT-LARGE COUNCILMEMBER

Johnie L. Higgs, Sr.

#### CITY ADMINISTRATOR

LaTasha C. Gatling

#### TREASURER

Robert L. Ashton

#### CHIEF OF POLICE

Chris Cotillo

#### DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Johnny Thompson

#### CITY CLERK

Dashaun N. Lanham

## CITY COUNCIL MEETS WITH STATE AND COUNTY OFFICIALS



On Wednesday, September 25th, the Seat Pleasant City Council and City Administrator held a "Breakfast With Our Legislators". The purpose of the event was to meet with State and County officials to discuss the vision for the City and enlist their help to bring about those goals and objectives. It was designed to foster collaboration with the State and County officials on several of the City's key projects.

The City is striving to work with State and County to bring these projects to fruition. Cooperation is essential since the City must pool together resources and funding streams from various agencies.

Some of those projects include:

- Demolition of several vacant properties that have become eyesores in the community which has caused distress for neighboring property owners and been a drain on City manpower. The City is serious about moving forward to address an issue that has long been a concern for residents.
- Acquisition of properties on Martin Luther King Highway to further the

City's plans to revitalize the Martin Luther King Highway corridor. Seat Pleasant residents desire quality retail services, goods and innovative dining experiences. Renewal of the Martin Luther King Highway area will give homeowners more of a sense of pride and increase their desire to remain in the community.

- Renovation and expansion of the Public Works Facility - The building which currently houses the Public Works Department was constructed 43 years ago and is in need of repair. Since 2000, the City has spent money for maintenance and repair but due to a reduction in revenue it has become challenging to keep the building up to code.

Legislators in attendance were supportive of the City's efforts and made a commitment to work alongside the Council to provide assistance where needed.

The elected officials in attendance were: Senator Joanne C. Benson, Delegate Carolyn J.B. Howard, Delegate Darren Swain, Delegate Michael Vaughn and County Councilmember Karen Toles. Also in attendance were Candace Donoho and Tom Curtin of the Maryland Municipal League.



## THE CITY CLERK

The legislation introduced by the City Council in the month of August was advertised last month in the Newsletter.

The City Council would like for ALL residents to have a point of clarity on the role and responsibilities of the City Council, Mayor and City Administrator.

In accordance to the Seat Pleasant City Charter Article 3 The Council:

**Section C-301. Number, Selection, Term**

All legislative powers of the City shall be vested in a Council consisting of seven Councilpersons who shall be elected as herein-after provided. Newly elected Councilpersons shall take office on the first Monday in October following election. Each Councilperson holding office at the time this Charter becomes effective shall continue to hold office for the term for which he was elected or until his successor is elected and takes office under the provisions of this Charter.

**Section C-302. Qualifications of Councilpersons**

Councilpersons shall have resided in the City for at least one year immediately preceding their election and shall have been qualified registered voters of the City for one (1) year. Councilpersons shall maintain a permanent resi-

dence in the City during their term of office. The minimum age for City Councilpersons shall be twenty-one years of age.

### ARTICLE IV THE MAYOR

**Section C-401. Qualifications of Mayor**

The Mayor must have resided in Seat Pleasant for at least one year immediately preceding his election, and shall have been a qualified registered voter of the City for one year.

**Section C-403. Powers and Duties**

(a) The Mayor shall be the ceremonial head of the government and shall have such powers and perform such duties as may be prescribed by this Charter. The Mayor is authorized to sign and execute documents and to accept service of legal process on behalf of the City. The Mayor shall enforce the Ordinances of the City and perform such other duties which are not inconsistent with this Charter as may be required of the Mayor by the City Council.

(b) Annual report for general distribution. The Mayor shall prepare or cause to be prepared annually a report in the name of the government of the City of Seat Pleasant. This report shall deal

not only with the financial condition of the City, but also with the accomplishments of the various agencies of the City. This report shall be printed for general distribution.

(c) The Mayor shall within sixty (60) days of the occurrence of any vacancy in the position of City Treasurer, City Clerk, Chief of Police, or any department head submit to the City Council the name of at least one qualified person to fill such position. In the event the name of such person is not forwarded to the City Council within the time specified above, the City Council shall fill such vacancy by requiring the City Administrator to submit one name for such vacancy within thirty days after receiving a written request from the Council President. In any event the confirmation of such person shall be by vote of the majority of Council.

### ARTICLE VII CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

(a) There shall be a full-time Chief Administrative Officer appointed by majority vote of the City Council, who shall serve at its pleasure. The City Council shall fix the compensation of the Chief Administrative Officer.

(b) The Chief Administrative Officer shall have those powers and responsibilities as may be provided by the Charter. The Chief Adminis-

-trative Officer shall take action and do those things mandated by any Ordinance or Resolution duly enacted by the City Council.

(c) The Chief Administrative Officer shall represent the City in all matters of day-to-day administration. In this connection, he or she shall exercise all administrative powers and authority delegated by this charter or the City Council. He or she shall:

Copies of the Charter and any legislations are available from the Office of the City Clerk at:

City Hall  
6301 Addison Road  
Seat Pleasant,  
Maryland 20743-2125

Additionally, the City Code, City Charter and legislation can be found on the City's website [www.seatpleasantmd.gov](http://www.seatpleasantmd.gov).

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Mayor and City Council will meet on the following days in the month of **October**.

**Monday, October 7, 2013**  
Regular Work Session  
Time: 6:00p.m.

**Monday, October 14, 2013**  
Public Session  
Time: 7:00p.m.

The meetings will be held at:  
Seat Pleasant City Hall  
Council Chambers  
6301 Addison Road  
Seat Pleasant, MD 20743-2125

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW? - A WORD FROM COUNCILMEMBER SIMMS



Councilwoman Elenora Simms

If you or someone you know was a participant in the Seat Pleasant After-School program at Feggans Center, we would like to hear from you. We want to share in your success since being a participant in the program. Please feel free to call 301-336-2600 with your information. We would love to hear about your experiences during the program and beyond.

## 911 EMERGENCY CALLS

The City of Seat Pleasant Police Department would like to remind you that although we utilize the City of Seat Pleasant Police Department Resource Center as our base of operations we do not have the ability to dispatch officers and/or calls for service from that location.

We, just like the majority of municipal police agencies in the County, have a memorandum of agreement with Prince George's County and are dispatched calls for service through the Prince George's County Communications Division. If you require immediate police service please do not call the resource center, a city council member, the Mayor, etc. please call 911 for emergencies or 301-352-1200 for non-emergencies.

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## CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS



### BULKY TRASH COLLECTION

All bulk trash is collected on Wednesday by appointment only. You must call Bates Trucking by 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday to be placed on the list. (Call 301-773-2069) You are only allowed three (3) large items. Residents please note if you don't call on Tuesday then you should not put any items out. If items are placed out and you're not on the pickup list you will be fined. All items for pickup should be placed out the night before. Any items that are placed out before dark the night before will receive a notice and are subject to a fine.

**Insert Screens-** During May 1 to September 30<sup>th</sup> every door, window and other outside opening required for ventilation of habitable rooms, food preparation areas, and food services are to be supplied with tightly fitting screens of not less 16 mesh per inch.

**Tree Issues-** Once tree limbs come over into your property you have a legal right to trim them back of your property at your expense. Neither the county nor the city has any codes on the books that states that we handle tree issues unless they are a public nuisance by the obstruction of the free passage on public ways. Such obstruction includes, but is not limited to weeds, grass, bushes, other plants and trees.



## WHAT IS CPAC?

As I go through the city and talk about organizing neighborhood watch groups and other initiatives, people most often ask - "what is CPAC and what do you do?" Seat Pleasant's Citizens for Public Safety Advisory Council (CPAC) consists of members of the community and our primary goal is to make Seat Pleasant a better place to live. The council includes representatives of the Seat Pleasant Police Department and Citizens Association along with

active residents who volunteer their time to improve our quality of life. These community leaders meet each month to discuss problems with crime, identify public safety issues that affect our residents, and develop effective solutions to our problems. A secondary goal of CPAC is to empower the community by allowing residents to take an active role in the decisions that directly affect us.

Think of CPAC as your voice in the community

and tell us about the issues you have in your neighborhood. We will discuss your concerns with the police department and do our best to fix them or make them better. Please email your ideas, comments, concerns, and suggestions to us at [cpac.seatpleasant@live.com](mailto:cpac.seatpleasant@live.com). We look forward to hearing from you!



## PUBLIC WORKS NEEDS YOUR HELP



Improperly disposed yard waste



Properly disposed yard waste

It has been observed that many residents are not properly preparing yard waste or bulk trash for pick up.

The City has contracted with Bates Trash Trucking to pick up yard waste and bulk trash on Wednesdays. The responsibility for pick up is Bates not Public Works. If Public Works picks up yard waste, etc., the City is paying twice and it becomes very costly. We are asking for your help in addressing this issue and

keeping our City clean.

Bates will remove yard waste and bulk trash, but it must be done according to procedures that have already been established. Yard waste must be placed in a securely tied heavy duty plastic bag or heavy duty trash can with handles and a secure lid. Limbs must not exceed 4 feet in length and 3 inches in diameter and must be securely tied in bundles. Bundles of limbs and bags of dry grass and leaves must weigh less than 60 pounds. Wet grass and leaves must weigh less than 25 pounds.

All bulk trash is collected by **appointment only** on Wednesdays. Residents must call Bates by 2 p.m. on Tuesday to schedule pick up. The telephone number is 301-773-2069 or 301-699-3073. The hours are 8 a.m. through Friday 8 a.m.—5 p.m.

The City strives to be fiscally responsible with its resources but we need the residents to assist in assuring that monies are not being spent unnecessarily for services that have already been contracted out.

## MEDICARE/MEDICAID INFORMATION SESSION

On Wednesday, October 16th, the City of Seat Pleasant will be hosting an information session about Medicare/Medicaid at 10 a.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. A representative from the Prince George's County Department of Aging will be on hand to discuss the Medicaid/Medicare Plan and what citizens need to know about enrollment as well as what the plan covers. There will be a presentation and an opportunity to ask questions. To R.S.V.P. for this session please call 301-336-2600.



## CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH THE CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT



To celebrate Black History Month, the City of Seat Pleasant has planned several activities for residents to choose from. On February 7, 2014, there will be a performance by Jasmine Guy and the Avery Sharpe Trio, *Raisin Cane: A Harlem Renaissance Odyssey*. On February 14th, there will be a tour of the Blacks in Wax Museum in Baltimore. Residents can sign up for either trip (not both) by calling 301-336-2600. There is no cost to residents but the seats are on a first come, first serve basis. On February 21st and 28th, there will be movie nights held at the Seat Pleasant Fire House at 6305 Addison Road in Seat Pleasant, Maryland at 7 p.m. Look for more information in the upcoming newsletters. Any person under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent at all events.

## THANKSGIVING LOTTERY

This year Seat Pleasant residents must enter a lottery to receive gift cards for Thanksgiving. We know that during the holidays many families find themselves in need of assistance. Those in need must register at City Hall by November 14, 2013. You must bring proof of income when you register. Residents will be chosen from each ward. For more information please call 301-336-2600.



City of Seat Pleasant

*"A City of Excellence"*

6301 Addison Road

Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743



PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT #235

## **VETERANS DAY CEREMONY**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2013**

**SEAT PLEASANT ACTIVITY CENTER**

**5720 ADDISON ROAD**

**SEAT PLEASANT, MARYLAND**

**10 A.M.**

**COME AND COMMEMORATE THOSE WHO HAVE FOUGHT  
FOR FREEDOMS WE NOW ENJOY.**

**TO R.S.V.P. OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 301-336-2600**